

Exhibit No. 14Date 4-10-07 #2Bill No. HB 298

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN

REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Larry Curran, Chair
Butte

April 4, 2007

Paul Babb
Butte

Becky Guay
Anaconda

Dennis Daneke
Missoula

Jim Dinsmore
Hall

Barbara Evans
Missoula

Kathy Hadley
Deer Lodge

John Hollenback
Gold Creek

Sally Johnson
Missoula

Milo Manning
Anaconda

Robbie Taylor
Butte

James Yeoman
Anaconda

Richard Oppen,
Director
Dept. of
Environmental Quality

Jeff Hagener, Director
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife
and Parks

Mary Sexton, Director
Dept. of Natural
Resources and
Conservation

James Steele, Jr.
Confederated Salish &
Kootenai Tribes

Laura Rotegard
U.S. Dept of Interior

Senator Trudi Schmidt, Chair
Senate Finance and Claims Committee
Montana Legislature
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

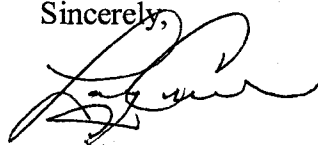
Re: Support for HB No. 298

Dear Senator Schmidt:

On behalf of the Governor's Upper Clark Fork River Basin Remediation and Restoration Advisory Council (Advisory Council), I offer this letter of support for HB298. This bill would extend the 2003 appropriation to continue the State's natural resource damage litigation and settlement negotiations that address the widespread injuries to the natural resources in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin resulting from the historical mining and mineral processing operations in the Butte and Anaconda areas. The Advisory Council, which consists of representatives of the five counties in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin, has a strong interest in bringing the State's litigation to a conclusion and thus supports HB298. The bill will provide resources to continue efforts to secure damages that will be utilized to address injuries to natural resources at the Clark Fork River, Anaconda Uplands and Butte Area One sites.

The Advisory Council recommends the Senate Finance and Claims Committee approve the bill as drafted. We appreciate your consideration of the Advisory Council's input.

Sincerely,



Larry Curran, Chairman
UCFRB Remediation and Restoration Advisory Council

cc: Rep. Cynthia Hiner
Members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee
Mike McGrath, Attorney General